

# The Living Church

*A weekly record of the news, the work, and the thought of the Episcopal Church*

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Signal Corps

### SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE

Chaplain Frederick A. McDonald of the Diocese of Oregon conducts services for a Wac group.

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OF THE PACIFIC  
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## The Recy Taylor Case

TO THE EDITOR: Our attention has been directed to your editorial discussing the Recy Taylor case in your March 4th issue. In the interest of acquainting your readers with the facts in the case, may we present the following information?

1) In the state of Alabama there exists a committee working on behalf of Mrs. Taylor. This committee was formed after two local investigations of the case had been made and after the Southern Conference for Human Welfare had also investigated the case. It was only after local Alabamians were convinced of the injustice accorded Mrs. Taylor, that they sent out an appeal to the nation as a whole to support the case and to help secure justice for Mrs. Taylor. The Committee's address is Room 921, Massey Building, Birmingham, Ala. Its secretary is Mrs. Caroline Collier Ballin.

2) We do not know what "additional facts" your local correspondent may have. But apparently they are unknown to the editor of the Birmingham News, a leading white paper of Alabama, which as you can see from the enclosed clippings has called for the indictment of the young men. You can be sure that this paper would not have voiced such an opinion if there were not strong local sentiment in favor of the indictment and if many local people did not believe that the action taken by the Henry County Grand Jury was a gross mockery of justice.

3) Apparently the Governor's office considered the case grave enough to warrant an investigation. Two investigators were as-

signed to the case. When they reported to the Governor, he called in the Attorney-General and instructed him personally to assist in the case. After further investigation, it was decided that the case should again be presented to the Grand Jury for indictment of the six young men, one of whom made a complete confession to the investigators from the Governor's office.

It is indeed surprising to find a Church magazine that would condone this callous indifference on the part of the Grand Jury of Henry County. One need not labor the

point that inter-racial relations will be progressively caused to deteriorate if and as the Negro community comes to feel that the treatment accorded them under the law falls short of accepted democratic standards.

GLENDIA SULLIVAN.

Montgomery, Ala.

### Editor's Comment:

If the Committee for Equal Justice for Mrs. Recy Taylor had not flagrantly prejudged the case, vilified an entire community, and overemphasized the element of race, it might be in a better position to serve the ends of justice. The oldest of the boys involved was 19, the youngest 14—which suggests that the problem has more the pattern of juvenile delinquency than of adult crime. Testimony was presented to the Grand Jury purporting to show that prostitution was involved in the case. Might it not be that weighing pros and cons, the grand jury was right in concluding the evidence was insufficient to place six minors under indictment as felons?

With regard to Miss Sullivan's numbered paragraphs, (1) there are only five Alabamians on the letterhead of the national committee, while there are hundreds from other states; (2) The Birmingham News argued only that there ought to be a public trial for the sake of meeting public clamor ("one does not have to feel that these boys are guilty

## The Living Church

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